

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 31-33, 35-39, 41-44, 46-49, 51-53, 55 and 56 are pending in the application. Claims 31-33, 36, 39, 44, 49, 51, 53 and 55 are amended and Claims 34, 40, 45, 50 and 54 are canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 31-33, 39, 44, 49 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,768,483 to Maniwa et al. (Maniwa) and Claims 34-38, 40-43, 45-48, 50-52 and 54-56 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the pending Claims have been amended as follows:

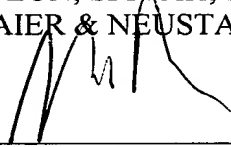
- (1) Claims 31-33 have been amended to recited the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 34;
- (2) Claim 39 has been amended to recited the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 40;
- (3) Claim 44 has been amended to recited the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 45;
- (4) Claim 49 has been amended to recited the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 50;
- (5) Claim 53 has been amended to recited the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 54;
- (6) Dependent Claims 34, 40, 45, 50 and 54 have been canceled; and

(7) Dependent Claims 36, 51 and 55 have been amended to depend from independent Claims 31, 49 and 53, respectively.

Consequently, in light of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Robert T. Pous  
Registration No. 29,099

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